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Report to the Economic and Social Council

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Report of the Administrator

Summary

The present report, prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 56/201, 53/192, 50/120 and 47/199, has benefited from comments offered by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA on 1 February at its first regular session 2002. The report reflects, in particular, the need for more incisive analysis of the issues discussed in the text and greater emphasis on gender empowerment. In a format jointly agreed on by UNDP, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, this report follows the areas addressed in the triennial comprehensive policy review (E/1998/48) and General Assembly resolution 56/201.

Elements of a decision

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the content of this report and decide to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council together with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session.

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I. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

A. Operational activities for development in a globalizing world

1. In 2002, the thrust of UNDP operational activities for development has focused on responding to priorities identified by programme countries and assisting them in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Results identified in the results-oriented annual report (ROAR) 2001 (DP/2002/15) present a picture of UNDP support to programme countries that meets the request, stated in operative paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 56/201, to focus on priorities identified by recipient countries and the goals, targets and commitments set in the Millennium Declaration and at major international conferences.

2. In particular, and in meeting the mandate set out in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 56/201, the ROAR 2001 indicates that 90 per cent of country offices reported results in poverty reduction, thus placing it at the core of the UNDP mandate. UNDP, therefore, supported the preparation of national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), in 85 countries. Involvement of UNDP in PRSP strategies, at the request of national authorities, increased from 11 countries in 1999 to 36 in 2001. Some 98 country offices reported that UNDP had undertaken programmes and projects to expand and protect the asset base of the poor.

3. Paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 56/201 stressed the importance of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the service of development. UNDP, active since 1993 in undertaking global, regional and national ICT for development initiatives in over 90 countries, elaborated a clear and streamlined strategic focus for both its global-level advocacy and its country programmes. In its decision 2001/12, the Executive Board took note of the report on the role of UNDP in ICT for development (DP/2001/CRP.8).

4. The strategy called for the realignment of the organization's country-level programmes and policy approach with upstream policy advice and national consultative processes, helping to structure and prioritize the design and implementation of programmes, address bottlenecks and increase both stakeholder involvement and benefits from ICT.

5. The ICT for development thematic trust fund was launched in late October 2001 in order to provide support for its five service lines. In 2002, seed funding was provided to close to 20 countries to promote this strategic focus, encourage other (non-core) resource mobilization and initiatives that are catalytic in nature and have a strong element of innovation or experimentation.

6. In this past year, there has also been clear recognition that falling costs and increased technology options are making ICT more accessible for developing countries. Major difficulties, however, remain in securing investment funds and private-sector involvement in the wake of dot.com and telecom crashes and the current economic slowdown. There is thus a heightened need for new business

models, partnership programmes and strategies to increase investment and local development in developing countries.

7. UNDP has supported resource mobilization and implementation potential in light of prioritized strategies that were formulated, for example, in Mozambique. Consortia and public-private partnerships are underway in the areas of micro-finance, e-learning, and the development of solutions deploying ICT in innovative, sustainable and locally relevant ways.

8. The importance of having a clear development focus for ICT, and identifying how the strategic deployment of such technologies can actually enhance efforts to achieve the MDGs, has emerged as a priority for development activities in key global forums, such as the United Nations ICT Task Force and the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society, the first phase of which will be held from 10 to 12 December 2003 in Geneva, which UNDP has been actively supporting.

B. Funding for operational activities for development

9. The trend evident in the Report of the Administrator to the Economic and Social Council (DP/2002/7) was confirmed in 2001. Total income for UNDP and its associated funds and programmes rose by $221 million, or 9 per cent, in 2001 to $2.6 billion, the highest level achieved to date. For the first time, income from all sources grew.

10. Regular (core) resources reversed their seven-year downward trend, growing by about 3 per cent or $652 million in 2001. Third party co-financing – i.e., funds emanating from the Member countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other parties, including the European Commission for programmes and projects – grew by 11 per cent, bringing the total donor contributions to UNDP to $1.4 billion. Programme country cost-sharing – resources that programme countries entrust to UNDP to manage in support of their own development programmes – also rose by 14 per cent to $1.1 billion. Finally, the new thematic trust funds yielded some $21.3 million in income in 2001.

11. Building on the 26 countries that increased their contributions in 2002, at least 24 countries have already raised their pledged commitments to regular resources. Many have been making sustained increases for two to three years. At the time of writing, at least 11 OECD/DAC donors have increased their contributions in 2002 in local currency terms. At least 13 programme countries are expected to increase their contributions to regular resources, including six resuming contributions. Four programme countries have announced contributions to UNDP regular resources of over $1 million.

12. While the growing political support, as expressed in the upturn in contributions is very important, it is nonetheless insufficient to put the finances of UNDP on a firm footing. While non-core funding is clearly an integral part of the new UNDP, core resources remain the bedrock on which UNDP relies.

C. Capacity-building

13. Discussions in the Economic and Social Council in July 2002 highlighted the importance of capacity-building; resolution 2002/29 consequently referred to the importance of capacity-building in the context of the internationally agreed development goals. Following those discussions, and in consultation with representatives of United Nations organizations in New York, UNDP partnered with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the High-Level Committee on Programming in hosting a United Nations system-wide workshop on capacity-building and development in November 2002.

14. In preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in July and September 2002 in Johannesburg, UNDP undertook a revision of its Capacity 21 programme. After some nine years with a trust fund of $90 million, working in over 75 countries, a global evaluation of the programme was commissioned. The global evaluation, concluding that the programme was very successful but did not go far enough, recommended an expanded second phase. The strategy followed was to use the Capacity 21 funding, expertise and approach to provide technical and financial support to all UNDP programme countries to develop national reports on Agenda 21 implementation. Global roundtables on energy, trade and investment, vulnerability and the Small Island States, capacity development and the MDGs were convened in preparation for the WSSD. These roundtables and workshops brought together non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ministers, the private sector and others and helped to focus the WSSD agenda. UNDP also supported the work of the Secretary-General in setting the water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) agenda. The outcome of all of these consultations was a capacity development platform – Capacity 2015, built on the experiences of Capacity 21 and other capacity development initiatives in UNDP and specifically utilizing the Capacity 21 integrated approach to sustainable development.

15. Capacity 2015 will include bi- and multilateral development agencies and banks, regional and global organizations and institutions, information networks and global foundations. An integral part of the Capacity 2015 platform is a component to mitigate vulnerability in the Small Island States – the first such initiative in UNDP.

16. Since May 2001, UNDP, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, has pursued the Reforming Technical Cooperation for Capacity Development (RTC) initiative to take a fresh look at the fundamentals of capacity development and how external cooperation can best contribute to the development of lasting indigenous capacities. Benefiting from extensive global e-discussions and two roundtables that took place in 2001 and 2002, the research involving country case studies and focus studies on different aspects of capacity development in the technical cooperation framework were finalized by mid-2002.

D. Common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework

17. In the past year, and in response to concerns expressed in General Assembly resolution 56/201, the common country assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) were revised. In particular, the new

guidelines for CCA and UNDAF integrate the MDGs, with an emphasis on links among the CCA/UNDAF, the MDGs and PRSP process. As of now, the CCA indicator framework has been aligned to indicators used for tracking the MDGs.

18. An overall learning/support package for CCAs and UNDAFs has been developed by the programme group of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the UNDG working group on training and is being tried out in five 2002 roll-out countries to which the new harmonized programme approval process applies in 2003. The new UNDG Task Force on Quality Support and Assurance are developing support and assurance procedures. United Nations organizations making up the Executive Committee of UNDG directly monitor and provide guidance for the development of country programmes in ten 2001 roll-out countries. Regional staff of several UNDG organizations have been trained on the new CCA and UNDAF guidelines and all regional directors of the Executive Committee have been briefed.

E. Monitoring and evaluation

19. Following discussions of the Economic and Social Council in 2001, UNDP has established the main elements of a system of substantive accountability. There is now a three-tiered accountability and learning system in place at the: (a) programme level (outcome evaluations); (b) country level (a select number of country evaluations or assessment of development results); and (c) macro level (the development effectiveness report). Each component builds on the other as well as tracking systems that monitor compliance and serve an integral part of good management.

20. In September 2002, in close partnership with the World Bank, UNDP launched the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS). Anchored in the needs of the South with its secretariat initially based in South Africa, it will focus on capacity development and serve as an important platform for advocating development evaluation as an essential aspect of transparency and good governance.

21. Another important partnership is the United Nations Evaluation Group. The Group, chaired and backstopped by UNDP, is being transformed from an annual meeting to a work-plan-driven process with different organizations acting as leaders in important areas, such as setting standards for the United Nations and making the United Nations evaluation community more professional and innovative. The debate in last year's substantive session of the Economic and Social Council and the resulting resolution 2002/29 represented an important step forward in this regard. Consequently, discussions have been initiated with members in the areas of joint lessons-learning and strengthening of evaluation functions.

22. In line with the programme of work in harmonization and simplification, the evaluation offices of UNDG member organizations have undertaken specific proposals for reducing transactions costs by standard reporting principles for donor reports. Work is ongoing on developing joint monitoring and evaluation plans of the UNDAF, including the timing and streamlining of individual agency programme and project reviews and the UNDAF outcome evaluation.

F. Simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures

23. In response to General Assembly resolution 56/201, a task force was established jointly under the UNDG programme and management groups. The task force, consisting of the UNDG Executive Committee organizations, has been drawing up proposals for inter-agency simplification and harmonization. A programme of work for the simplification and harmonization of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies was prepared and submitted at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2002 as the consolidated list of issues related to the coordination of operational activities for development (E/2002/CRP.1).

24. UNDP has shown its commitment to this effort by establishing the High-level Steering Committee on Simplification and Harmonization along with a reference group to support the input to the inter-agency task force. It has also involved the Bureau of Development Policy, the Bureau of Management, the regional bureaux, the Evaluation Office, the Operations Support Group and the Office of Audit and Performance Review to work on various designs to ensure that all parties are fully engaged.

25. To involve country offices, UNDP sent a questionnaire to obtain views and test the implications of proposals on simplification and harmonization. UNDP involved resident representatives in workshops, held an electronic discussion forum, visited countries (Bolivia, the Philippines, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Yemen) and participated in a workshop in Nairobi which involved United Nations country teams from ten countries, government experts, UNDG Executive Committee members, the World Bank and OECD/DAC Member countries. The country visits and the Nairobi workshop validated the recommendations proposed by the UNDG task force. UNDG adopted these recommendations on 7 November 2002 in New York.

26. The inter-agency efforts coincide with and are informed by ongoing internal UNDP business re-engineering of operational policies and procedures, such as the alignment of the country programme and the strategic results framework (SRF), and the enterprise resource planning (ERP) work on simplifying and integrating business processes.

27. The ERP system is currently being developed through the adaptation of software that will result in the elimination of at least 17 different software systems currently in use, all of which will be replaced by the ERP. This will result in the streamlining of transactional work through one-time entry for financial, human resource and project data. This will save input time and avoid inaccuracies created by parallel data sets. Simplified business processes will be made possible by the creation of an integrated platform to manage the full project cycle as well as corporate and country office resources generated from multiple sources. Reporting will be improved and more timely as the ERP will generate many reports automatically.

28. While the ERP provides substantial opportunities for simplification and greater effectiveness, there are also potential risks associated with this implementation. The risks mainly derive from placing all UNDP transactional data on a single system – connectivity problems or system down time could cut country offices off from information vital to their work.

G. Resident coordinator system

29. Between January and September 2002, some 90 candidates went through the resident coordinator assessment of which about half were UNDP staff members and 26 were female candidates. Efforts are ongoing to ensure faster selection procedures and to increase the number of female candidates in the competency assessment. As of 11 November 2002, out of 120 sitting resident coordinators, 33 (28 per cent) were women. It is expected that the number of women resident coordinators will increase in the next reassignment exercise. As a follow up to the discussion in the Economic and Social Council, in the operational segment of the substantive session in July 2002, UNDP has sponsored external female candidates for the assessment.

30. Regarding the balance among United Nations organizations, performance has remained stable, with 18 resident coordinators out of 120 sitting resident coordinators in July 2002 coming from United Nations organizations other than UNDP. Of these, 13 are men and five are women.

31. Efforts are underway to enhance the capacity of resident coordinators to operate effectively in crisis and post-conflict situations. Candidates who pass the resident coordinator competency assessment will have demonstrated ability to lead United Nations efforts under such challenging circumstances.

H. Planning, programming and implementation

32. A concerted effort has been made to introduce a results-oriented management culture. In this respect, a strong emphasis has been placed on human resource initiatives, with the aim of aligning competencies with the new organizational profile and creating conditions to attract, develop and motivate talented people to excel. As part of the country office re-profiling initiative, a special package of corporate support was provided to country offices in order to realign their operations and structure more harmoniously with the new direction of the organization.

33. Through a set of indicators, a balanced scorecard system designed and launched in 2001 helps to plan and ultimately assess how the entire organization is progressing in implementing its transformational agenda. Similarly, development performance is managed through the strategic results framework (SRF) – a planning instrument for development outcomes and appropriate indicators. Improving the link between organizational and individual performance is achieved through a remodelled results and competency assessment, which appraises staff performance based on results planned in the balanced scorecard and SRF. Client surveys are also becoming an important element of performance assessment.

I. Cooperation with international financial institutions

34. Cooperation with the World Bank is developing at both central institutional and country levels. One major aspect of institutional partnerships relates to supporting Governments, on their request, with the substantive formulation of interim PRSPs and in-country consultative processes. Work around the PRSP is an increasingly important aspect of the work of the United Nations country teams, to which UNDP contributes as part of the resident coordinator system. Country-level work on PRSPs

is followed closely and is jointly monitored with the World Bank in periodic joint assessments and consultation meetings.

35. A new development in the UNDP-World Bank relationship pertains to the World Bank low-income countries under stress (LICUS) initiative. Discussions between the two institutions are underway regarding specific cooperation in four pilot countries.

36. UNDP is also working closely with the World Bank and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in a number of countries to determine how the three organizations can collaborate better in addressing issues such as bridging the gap between relief and development and fostering the more sustainable reintegration of refugees.

37. UNDP has been developing a multi-level partnership with the World Bank Institute on capacity-building, technical cooperation and distance-learning initiatives. The World Bank has also recently become an official observer to the United Nations Development Group coordination mechanism.

38. The focus of UNDP cooperation with the International Monetary Fund is primarily on institutional dialogue. There is a limited number of joint activities at the country level that focus on support to budgetary reform and monetary policies.

39. In 2001-2002, UNDP has been emphasizing the development of its relationship with regional development banks. A closer dialogue has been developing with the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank that should lead to greater collaboration at the country level. In addition to their partnership on thematic issues, UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank are also negotiating a standard legal agreement for implementation support.

J. Humanitarian assistance: crisis prevention and recovery

40. In response to increasing demands from Governments in crisis and post-conflict situations for specialized technical services, UNDP established a new Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in 2001 to enhance the development response to crisis and post-conflict situations by strengthening country-office capacity and partnerships between UNDP and external actors and developing more systematic generation of knowledge and best practices in this area. Conflict prevention, peace-building, vulnerability reduction (from both natural and human-induced crises) and the transition to sustainable recovery are the main UNDP focus areas. In 2001, over 65 country offices reported ongoing initiatives in pursuit of these goals.

41. Throughout 2002, UNDP has made serious efforts to help to bridge the gap between relief and development and between United Nations peace and security activities and development objectives. The organization has also worked to strengthen the capacity of Governments to prevent violent conflict, manage crises and post-conflict recovery and build peace.

42. Although the response of UNDP to the crisis in Afghanistan dominated the attention of BCPR in the first half of 2002, the Bureau has been working closely with UNDP country offices in several other countries and regions. In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, UNDP has developed an expanded community recovery programme in the context of wider disarmament and reintegration efforts in the region. Following the positive trends of the peace talks in

Sri Lanka, UNDP has worked with other United Nations organizations to support the return and reintegration of internally displaced people and to build national capacity for mine clearance. In Sudan, UNDP supported peace-building efforts in the Nuba Mountain region. UNDP has also supported national efforts through the provision of advisory services and technical assistance in areas such as small-arms reduction, demobilization, and justice and security sector reform. Prompted by government requests, BCPR helps UNDP country offices to target their development programmes better in addressing the root causes of vulnerability and conflict.

43. In the past year, UNDP has focused on strengthening its relationships with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in particular. The partnership with DPKO is extremely important to ensure a smooth transition when peacekeeping operations close, while UNDP and DPA work together on peace-building and prevention initiatives. UNDP is working closely with OCHA and other members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in developing strategies and raising resources for countries in transition to recovery, including through more effective participation in the consolidated appeals process (CAP).

44. In crisis and post-conflict situations, an increasing number of country offices has reported efforts to develop local capacity to formulate reconstruction programmes in support of recovery and reconciliation and to mainstream gender as a cross-cutting element of comprehensive reconstruction programmes targeting poverty reduction and national institution-building. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other United Nations organizations, UNDP has actively contributed to raising the gender equality issue in addressing the post-conflict development of Afghanistan and supporting the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs in designing its work.

45. In several regions, natural-disaster reduction and recovery activities are increasingly becoming a mainstream part of UNDP country office activities. The support provided to these regions has increased with the posting of regional disaster reduction advisors to five regions in 2002.

K. Gender

46. UNDP continues to maintain a two-pronged approach to gender equality: gender-mainstreaming and empowerment of women, especially at the country level. In the past year, 77 per cent of UNDP country offices reported gender-specific programmes and a notable rise in gender-mainstreaming across thematic interventions in governance, poverty reduction, ICT, HIV/AIDS environment and crisis and post-conflict situations. Currently, more than one third of UNDP country offices support the collection of data disaggregated by sex to enhance national reporting and capacity for gender analysis, linking it to the preparation of national human development reports, MDG reports and poverty reduction strategies.

47. In Cambodia, for example, UNDP supported the drafting of a needs-assessment and capacity-development plan for line ministries and their provincial departments and trained their gender focal points to mainstream gender in their work. In Botswana, the organization supported civil society in formulating gender-mainstreaming plans, while tools and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring

them were developed at the governmental level. UNDP also supported efforts in Nepal to mainstream gender concerns in its national development plan.

48. UNDP also promoted efforts to establish a database on violence against women, the training of police to monitor women's human rights and the incidence of gender violence. Introducing ICT in support of gender equality was especially featured in the Asia and the Pacific region and in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Ensuring the connectivity of national stakeholders was a particular concern, especially those working on gender and strengthening knowledge networks, as in the case of Lithuania where UNDP supported the establishment of an interactive virtual library and in Malaysia where it provided policy proposals to the Ministry of Women and Family Development on gender and ICT.

49. Partnership with UNIFEM is increasing and extending to new areas of intervention. A prime example is the UNDP-UNIFEM collaboration (which includes the Women's Environment and Development Organization) in preparing the Gender and Funding for Development Kit, the purpose of which is to promote advocacy and awareness-raising on key gender concerns as they relate to financing for development. More than half of all UNDP country offices are reporting joint activities with UNIFEM. These activities aim in particular to develop the capacity of local and national actors to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), raise awareness and curb violence against women and guide the work of United Nations thematic groups on gender.

L. South-South cooperation

50. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) has sought to support innovative approaches to South-South cooperation through programmes on social protection for individuals in the informal sector and on creating and fortifying business-to-business links. The Special Unit for TCDC has continued to publish its journal *Cooperation South* and to update its information system – Web of Information for Development (WIDE) – providing an array of online services, including information on South expertise and innovative development practices. One pioneering initiative responds to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through collaborative efforts to fight AIDS in Botswana, drawing on the experience of Brazil where efforts to counter the epidemic focus on boistering the country's education system.

51. UNDP has stepped up efforts to facilitate South-South exchanges by seeking development solutions from the growing number of world-class institutions and individual experts in the South. The identification of such expertise has benefited from an expanded network of field-based UNDP staff. As a result, key partners include a cadre of South experts in a wide range of fields, including judicial reform, local government, HIV/AIDS, ICT and poverty eradication.

52. Triangular cooperation has also gained new significance in the work of UNDP as North and South institutions and experts form collaborative networks to conduct joint research and share technological and financial resources while building stronger institutions in the South. An outstanding example of such partnership has involved the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and other partners from North and South resulting in the development of new high yielding,

high protein rice varieties called New Rice for Africa or NERICA. NERICA promises to increase rice production to 744 000 tonnes, reducing rice imports in West Africa by $88 million per year by 2006. Farmers growing NERICA are likely to increase their incomes from rice by 25 per cent.

II. Integrated follow-up to conferences and the MDGs

53. In fulfilment of its mandate as scorekeeper and campaign manager of the MDGs, UNDP has made significant contributions to coordinating the United Nations MDG strategy. The strategy focuses on action by the United Nations system at two levels, global and country, with the following core elements:

(a) *Monitoring*: The systematic and sustained tracking and review of progress towards the MDGs – in terms of achievements, trends and shortfalls – is critical to turning them into widely recognized measures of successful international cooperation.

(b) *Analysis*: It is crucial to define and assess the policy dimensions of achieving the MDGs based on a consensus among partners on necessary policy and institutional reforms and investments, financing options and strategies for scaling up their efforts, through the implementation of the Millennium Project.

(c) *Campaigning/mobilization*: Collaboration with a wide range of partners interested in mobilizing the commitments and capabilities of broad segments of society is necessary for building awareness and galvanizing public opinion in support of action on priorities, policies and resource allocations.

(d) *Operational activities*: Goal-driven assistance makes it possible to address directly key constraints to progress on the MDGs at the country level, recognizing that the achievement of the MDGs is ultimately the responsibility of Member countries.

(e) *Partnership building*: Developing and implementing creative strategies for working more intensively with a range of actors whose contributions are critical will be a feature cutting across all of the above four elements of the strategy.

54. In the past year, the Millennium Trust Fund was established as the principal financing vehicle for the support programme. Almost two thirds of planned expenditure for 2002/2003 is funded.

55. The Millennium Project central office is now operational in New York. The first meeting of all coordinators took place at the end of October 2002. Task forces will contribute background papers to serve as input documents for the *Human Development Report 2003*, which will focus on the MDGs. The first meeting of the United Nations Experts Group was held on 17 September 2002 in New York.

56. The Secretary-General's Executive Coordinator for the Millennium Campaign was appointed in November 2002. MDG awareness and partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) is steadily increasing: a Social Watch meeting on monitoring the MDGs in November 2002, the Eurodad Annual Conference on Empowering the Poor and Delivering the MDGs in November, and the Africa Social Forum focused on the MDGs in December. The sub-regional resource facility (SURF) in Central and East Africa is preparing a handbook on and pilot approaches

to CSO involvement with the MDGs and the SURF in Panama has compiled a MDG resource book for use by country offices.

Country level

57. Led by the resident coordinators and the country teams, some 16 MDG reports have already been published. Over 50 such MDG reports are under preparation. A regional MDG report was issued for Africa on the occasion of the New Partnership for Africa's Development discussions at G8 meetings in June 2002. Some 36 country offices in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and Latin America and the Caribbean have received funding to initiate or expand advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the MDGs in collaboration with United Nations country teams.

58. A UNDP-supported workshop on the MDGs for 12 United Nations country teams in Asia and the Pacific was held jointly with UNDG in October 2002 in Lao People's Democratic Republic and included participants from civil society, the World Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Similar workshops were organized for central and east Africa in Ethiopia and for the Arab States in Yemen. Additional workshops are being planned in Bangladesh, Slovakia and Senegal.